

# The Watauga Democrat.

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## Birthday Celebration of Uncle Joe Mast

Some one asked the other day why it was that all the children, grand-children, and even great-grand-children of Uncle Joe Mast met at his home each year to celebrate his birthday? I must admit that I pondered over this question for an answer when I considered that they have been doing this annually since I have been acquainted with them each year with the same enthusiasm. Finally, the answer came in the Arabian poet's description of his hero when he said:

Sunshine was he  
In the winter day;  
And in the midsummer  
Coolness and shade

Such a man is Uncle Joe Mast. For these people the 9th day of April is a great day, and well it may be for they celebrate the natal day of one of the best men that ever lived. While the roads were not good yet they came from every quarter and by noon the number had reached about eighty-five, bringing with them all the delicacies that tempt the appetite, and presents for Uncle Joe that made the old man know that his life has not been spent in vain.

All of the nine children were present except Andy Mast who lives in Montana, followed by a long line of his grand-children and great-grand-children, and all the married bringing their husbands and wives.

If the study of character and psychology appealed to a man this occasion afforded the opportunity. There was Uncle Fin Mast, the only living brother of Uncle Joe, who stands as erect as any young man, matching his wit with Newt Banner's humor and greatly adding to the occasion. Robert Mast, although wearing his cane, no one would judge him to be over twenty-four. D. F. Mast, who has the carriage and courtesy of a knight, and John C. Smith who wore his familiar overalls and whose friends claim that he is so democratic that a child can get the same consideration from him as a king or potentate, played games and ran races with the boys. J. H., D. H., and J. C. Mast acted like boys in school. Everybody was happy and in good spirits. Uncle Joe, who has been feeble for some time and is 88 years old, walked about the premises and chatted with his people to the third generation in an interesting and reminiscent manner, and ate heartily of the good things spread before him.

When we look at the list of his children consisting of Mesdames Newton Banner, Robert Mast, Mattie Sullivan, D. F. Mast, J. C. Smith, Messrs. Andy J. Mast, John H. Mast, D. H. Mast, J. C. Mast, and the long list of grand-children and great-grand-children to the number of 107, and all doing their part to make good citizens, no one could wonder at Uncle Joe's happy mood. With this encouragement any man ought to live to be a centenarian.

They are legion who are praying that this good man may live to celebrate many more anniversaries and teach men the right way of living by his Christian life.

A FRIEND.

## Bryan and Prohibition

The Beaufort News thinks that should Colonel Bryan insist on nailing a prohibition plank in the Democratic platform next year, "the party will split on this question and Bryan will be the logical candidate for the Prohibition party." Hardly a sound speculation. Colonel Bryan is too well pleased with the position he has attained in the Democratic party to countenance any sort of

## Six Blackbirds Caught Last Week

Sheriff Moody and deputies on Tuesday night and Wednesday of last week made another successful raid in Elk township. As a result of the raid three men and three women were apprehended and one dispirited outfit. None of the parties were caught in the act, so to speak, but sufficient evidence had been secured to justify their arrest. The still had been removed a short while before the arrival of the officers, but was found next day, and consisted of a canning outfit which had been converted into a complete still, cap and worm. Seemingly, for fear the inquisitive might wish to know the proprietors, the names of the owners were found written on the still. The parties arrested were: Willie Carroll, John Hodges, Wash Hodges, Lottie Carroll, Maggie Carroll, Lister Carroll—the latter on account of sickness wasn't put under arrest for the time being. Wash Hodges by a ruse made his escape. He asked to be allowed to go into a house to see a sick father, and as he hasn't returned from his visit to the sick as yet he is doubtless still making diligent search for the aforesaid sick father, anyway Wash hasn't been seen since. Willie Carroll and John Hodges are now in jail in default of \$200 bond for their appearance at court. Lottie and Maggie Carroll gave \$200 bond each and were set at liberty.

This makes the fourth still captured by Sheriff Moody in this locality, and as he has been notified of threats and repeatedly warned of the danger of making raids in this section, he takes sufficient force with him to meet any emergency. He requests us to state that the majority of the people of Elk township are on the side of the law and give him all the assistance they can in locating and apprehending violators.

## Man's Character

The value of upright living is always an asset of value. And in times of stress when beset by enemies it is a bulwark of defense which is better than all other bulwarks. Character counts always.

Judge Ben. B. Lindsey, of the Denver Juvenile Court, has been a man beset, and there have been the strongest kind of efforts made to undo him. That he has won in the courts in the fight to protect his name is most gratifying to those who know him for the great work which he has done in Denver.

Recently in Denver the county grand jury filed a report which exonerated Judge Lindsey of all charges of misconduct, and one who had filed affidavits reflecting on his character was indicted on a charge of criminal libel. The report is that violators of the law and their sympathizers were in league against Judge Lindsey in the effort to ruin him. He has made such a high name over this entire country that his victory over those who sought to annihilate him will be hailed with the greatest satisfaction.—News and Observer.

a contingency that would take him out of it. He could not be consistent were he not to advocate prohibition when occasion rises for him to do so, and there is no doubt that he would like to see the Democratic party make prohibition an issue, but those who are looking for him to go that length have a disappointment in store. Colonel Bryan is both prohibitionist and politician. No one knows better than he does when to put on and when to shut off the current.—Charlotte Observer.

## Desires Proposition from Watauga

Mr. W. W. Barber, of Edgemont, representing the C. & N. W. Railroad Co., was in Boone Wednesday of last week to ascertain, as far as possible, what encouragement the C. & N. W. people might expect in case they should undertake the construction of a narrow gauge line to this point.

Several of the business men of Boone met with Mr. Barker and Civil Engineer Curtis at the Blackburn Hotel Wednesday evening to talk the matter over. Mr. Barker made it plain that his company would expect the people of Watauga to take stock—what amount wasn't stated—and came here to try and ascertain the sentiment of the people along these lines. While all the gentlemen present expressed great interest in any project calculated to be instrumental in getting a railroad line to this point, still they didn't feel qualified to vouch for the county or even the township through which the line would pass, and it was decided to postpone further controversy until June term of court when many people of the county will be in town. Mr. Barker was requested to have a representative of the railroad company here at that time sufficiently informed as to the desires and expectations of the company to enable him to put the matter before the people in a business way.

We don't think there's a county in the country more in need of a railroad than Watauga, and while all projects to that end have fallen flat so far, we still have hopes and expect to lend encouragement to every movement that has this end in view, and hope something tangible will be the result of this last proposition.

Every county is to vote on the issuing of \$100,000 in bonds to secure the extension of the C. & N. W. from Edgemont to Newland, and the railroad people are anxious to continue it to this point. While there isn't any certainty about Avery voting the bonds, this will not interfere with any deal the people of Watauga may see fit to make with the railroad.

## Bats and Mosquitoes

Dr. Charles A. R. Campbell of San Antonio, Texas, has been experimenting for the last 14 years to discover if a theory he holds, that the bat is the natural enemy of the mosquito, is sound. All his investigations thus far support the theory and he has impressed the city officials of San Antonio so deeply that they have established a mammoth bat roost in the outskirts of the city and the bat is protected by law.

The mosquito unquestionably is the carrier of malaria just as he is of yellow fever. Ordinarily the bat is not considered a desirable member of the ornithological family and women particularly are fearful of the "winged rat," but every living thing has its enemy and if the bat is the enemy of the mosquito it can do a great service to mankind. Of all the pests man knows the mosquito is one of the worst. William C. Whitney once offered a prize of \$100,000 to the scientist who would discover a method of exterminating the mosquito and he had a group of learned men at his country place, near Sheephead Bay one summer studying the problem, but nothing came of it. The result of the establishment of the bat colony at San Antonio will not only give freedom from the bites of the mosquitoes, but lessen danger from the many forms of malarial diseases.—Commerce and Finance.

## The University and Its New President

The exercises at Chapel Hill April 21st mark an epoch in the State's history. Not only was there the largest gathering of distinguished men ever seen in North Carolina, not only was there inducted into office the youngest president the University has ever had, but especially was there an exhibition of the finest spirit of co-operation and comradeship. No such appealing interest has ever before been manifested on the Hill.

The conservatism of the old order and the progressivism of the younger faith were mingled in like proportion throughout the day's doings. This augurs well for the University. If the spirit of yesterday is any indication, the institution is destined at once to go forward by leaps and bounds under the guidance of its vigorous new president. The University will come out into the broad light of a bigger day, will push ahead without losing one of its ancient traditions, will become more and more a part of the warp and woof of the Commonwealth. The University must keep pace with the new progress of the State and the State must properly value and support the University. Such are the lessons of April 21, 1915.

As for President Graham, it is just to say that he takes his place under most favorable auspices. That he will assume the responsibilities wisely and well all the State believes. Graham is a man who has forged to the front by sheer brains. Every ounce of his grey matter he has used for the highest purposes. He has an abundance of uncommonly good moral and mental sense. More than all, he has a hold on the students and alumni, their hearts and heads, such as is rarely seen in the days of larger institutions. Edward Kidder Graham will be known as one of those college presidents who possess the unusual combination of excellent executive attainments, clear-sighted vision, and the ability to inspire confidence, hope and courage. All is well with the University of North Carolina with President Edward Kidder Graham in charge.—News and Observer.

## Would You Like to Volunteer

Do you know the war is raging? That the foe is drawing near? Do you hear the call for soldiers, Would you like to volunteer?

Go first, for the captain's orders, He'll tell you just what to do, Then enter the place he assigns you; Be brave, be strong, be true. Go forth in the heat of the battle, Go get your armour of light, Then enter the army of service; Be bold and stand for the right.

When the heat of the battle increases And the foe is drawing near, Just listen for the captain's orders— Listen, you will surely hear.

The enemy often attacks you, Perhaps it may be unawares, He'd like O so much to get you, Yes, you to put with the tars.

The decisive battle may now be on The victory soon be won; Will you render such faithful service That your sentence shall be "well done."

An exchange says of a certain church in its relations to its pastor, that they hired him, they tired of him, and then they fired him. We may add, how much better it would have been if they had admired, attired, and inspired him.—Biblical Recorder.

Although most of the cities in Japan have good sidewalks, modern street paving is practically unknown in the empire.

## The War Losses

Early in the war Lord Kitchener had said that the struggle might last three years. What seemed a mere rough significant estimate by the few statistics yet available, which show the wastage of war.

Thus it seems fair to estimate that Germany has now in the field 3,000,000 men, France 2,000,000, Austria 1,000,000, Russia 3,000,000. England at no distant date will have 1,000,000 on the continent. Serbia and Belgium may be reckoned to have 250,000.

Now, as far as Russia is concerned her supply of men is for any ordinary calculation inexhaustible. That she can keep her European force at 3,000,000 for three years, despite battle losses, is hardly debatable. As to England, her ability to maintain an army of 1,000,000 on the continent indefinitely and despite losses is equally to be accepted. It is different with France. Her available military population may be reckoned at 4,000,000. Of this she has already lost 1,000,000 by death, capture, disease or wounds. Half of this number may be reckoned as permanently lost. At this rate, France will be reduced at the opening of the third year of war to 2,000,000. With her allies she will then have 6,000,000 men. But her losses in this year cannot be made good, save by the new class coming to the colors in 1917 and levies from her colonies.

Now Germany may be reckoned to have had 6,000,000 men available for service in July, 1914; 600,000 more will be supplied by the combined classes of 1916 and 1917. German losses in the first six months may be estimated at 1,800,000. At this rate, 1,800,000 will be removed permanently from the German lines in each of the first two years of war. Thus, at the opening of the third, Germany will still have 8,000,000 men to draw on. But her losses thereafter will be definite, because she will have exhausted her reserve. As to Austria, she has lost more than 1,000,000 already in her many disasters. She may still have 1,000,000 in the field, but a year hence, two years hence, she can hope for no more, and her resources, too, will be completely exhausted.

Thus, as the third year of the war opens not more than 4,000,000 Austro-Germans, the last line, will confront 6,000,000 Russians, British and French helped by some hundreds of thousands of Slavs and Belgians behind whom will stand Russian and British reserves of at least 4,000,000. This means, with every discount for the roughness of the estimate, that sometime in the third year, while Russia and Britain are still able to keep their armies at their present point, Austro-German forces will begin to decline rapidly, and a tremendous advantage of numbers will belong to the enemies of Germany. Such is the statement of what may be called the mathematics of war.—Review of Reviews

A camera small enough to be swallowed, to photograph the interior of the stomach, has been invented by a Danish surgeon.

A French scientist who has been experimenting 18 years to ascertain the effects of low temperature on fish and animals, has found that common snails can withstand the greatest amount of cold.

Oil lamps lighted the London streets in 1861 and onward, while gas came into use just over 100 years ago.

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